

HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION 950

By Matheny

A RESOLUTION to honor and commend the Tennessee Scholastic Clay Target Program and its participants.

WHEREAS, the Tennessee Scholastic Clay Target Program (TNSCTP) was founded in 2001 as a competitive shooting sports program for elementary through college-aged students; and

WHEREAS, under the direct leadership of the Tennessee Wildlife Federation the highly successful program has attracted national recognition, with local, regional and state-level competitions in skeet, sporting clays, and trap; and

WHEREAS, TNSCTP has provided nearly \$30,000 in college scholarships and now includes more than 2,000 participants on more than 100 teams statewide; and

WHEREAS, the TNSCTP provides an opportunity for boys and girls to compete head-to-head; and

WHEREAS, more than twenty percent of the participants are female and the program added teams at three all-girls schools in 2012; and

WHEREAS, TNSCTP has far surpassed the thirty-six other states with teams in the highly competitive national events by bringing home seven of fifteen national championships in 2011, twenty-three top-five finishes, and has produced six Junior Olympians, including four in 2012; and

WHEREAS, the TNSCTP is made possible by the generous personnel, volunteers, and financial support from the Tennessee Wildlife Resources Agency, the Tennessee Army National Guard and Tennessee-based Rio Ammunition Company; and

WHEREAS, the TNSCTP continues to expand recreational opportunities by securing facilities and placing trap machines in physical locations where students can practice and compete; and

WHEREAS, the program offers a highly competitive team sport opportunity for our youth who may not be interested or engaged in the more traditional organized indoor and field school sports; and

WHEREAS, the program provides a family atmosphere, with frequent opportunities for parents and children to bond during practice, competitions, and travel to events; and

WHEREAS, the TNSCTP is a safe, closely supervised and well coached sport with no reportable injuries in the history of the program; and

WHEREAS, all participants are required to successfully pass a TWRA state-certified Hunter Education Course before participating in the program, which encourages both outdoor activity and provides opportunities for shooters to experience hunting, many for the first time; and

WHEREAS, the state championship event in Nashville spans several days and draws thousands of Tennesseans from across the state, generating considerable economic benefit to local businesses; and

WHEREAS, TNSCTP teaches and builds important character and developmental attributes, such as discipline, focus, teamwork, respect, safety, and other positive life skills; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE ONE HUNDRED SEVENTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, THE SENATE CONCURRING, that the General Assembly recognizes and honors the significant past accomplishments and the continued successful operation and growth of the Tennessee Scholastic Clay Target Program, as well as the many other contributions the program and its sponsors and leaders have made to youth development in Tennessee.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that an appropriate copy of this resolution be prepared for presentation with this final clause omitted from such copy.